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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1332
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 7650
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 5849
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 4694
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 9809
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 5618
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 7788
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY 0641
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 3347
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 2979
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: KARACHI BOMBING: CONDOLENCES AND CONDEMNATIONS
POUR IN

11. Summary. Pakistani politicians at all levels--from President Musharraf and PM Aziz to a wide-spectrum of political party representatives--have reached out to US Embassy and Consulate officials to offer their condolences and express their condemnation of the 2 March bombing outside of the US Consulate General in Karachi. Reactions have been uniform, regretting the loss of lives, vehemently critical of the bomber's actions, and simultaneously concerned about the bombing's impact on Pakistan's image abroad. End Summary.

REGRET, SORROW, AND ANGER FROM MOST POLITICAL PARTIES...

12. Publicly and privately, a spectrum of the Mission's political and civil society contacts have reached out to express their sincere grief over the death of Karachi Consulate personnel. Several called in to express "sincere condolences" and concern over the continuing "menace" of terrorism and sabotage on Pakistan's public image. Others used the media to convey their condolences and their anger at those responsible for the attack. Thus far, condolence calls have come in from over 25 officials but there has been a notable absence from JI and PML-N thus far. A snapshot of callers includes:

- President Musharraf
- Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi, PML
- Punjab Governor Khalid Maqbool
- Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Chairperson of the PPP
- PML Secretary General Mushahid Hussain
- Riyaz Fatiyana, PML MNA
- Kashmala Tariq, PML MNA
- Mufti Abrar Ahmed, Private Secretary to Maulana Fazlur Rahman (Jamait-e Ulema-e Islam Fazlur Rehman Faction)
- Sahibzada Abdul Khair Muhammad Zubair, VP Jamait-e Ulema-e Pakistan
- Jalal Naqvi, Tehrik-e Islami Pakistan
- Inayat Ali Shakir, Tehrike Akhuwat-e Islami Pakistan (Shia)
- Mufti Munib-ur Rehman, President, Tanzeem-ul Madaris (Bareilvi madrassa board)
- Mehboob Sada, Christian Studies Center
- Om Parkash Narain, Chairman, Pakistan Minorities Forum

...AND CONCERN FOR PAKISTAN'S IMAGE

13. Government politicians and several civil society representatives also pointedly noted in their messages their

concern that the bombings could further tarnish Pakistan's delicate image abroad or harm US-Pakistan relations. President Musharraf and PM Aziz both made a point of telling reporters that the "senseless acts" would not deter Pakistan's fight against terrorism and expressed concern that the terrorists were "defaming" Pakistan's soft image. PML Law and Justice Minister Wasi Zafar said that the bombing was intended to sabotage President Bush's visit to Pakistan, and told reporters that the bombing reinforced the fact that "the menace of terrorism needs to be wiped out." Lastly, Sindh Chief Minister Ishrat-ul Abad and Governor Ghulam Arbab Rahim told reporters to "tell the world that no Muslim considers terrorism a correct path."

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